

amusement. I often travel with nurses, and find them reading the penny papers entirely composed of nonsense, and at the shop where I get my RECORD, the man tells me a nurse seldom buys "ought but rubbish." It is a pity, but we don't seem to have brain-power left, when off duty to grasp the serious side of things. It may be a pity, but don't blame us too severely."

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IN this connection a Sister in connection with one of our well known training schools, in speaking of her Matron, remarked, quite casually, that "the Matron spent most of the day drinking tea and reading the *Family Herald*"!!!

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MR. GEORGE WILLS, of Pepperton, has intimated to the Committee of the Moreton-hampstead Nurse Association, that he is prepared to vest in trustees a sum sufficient to pay in perpetuity the present salary of the nurse as an endowment in memory of his late wife. Subsequently, Mr. Wills expressed his willingness to build a cottage hospital with half of the sum he proposed to invest, and to endow it with the remainder. The Hon. W. F. D. Smith has, however, made an offer to the Committee to give a suitable site, and to erect on it, at his own cost, a cottage hospital which would meet the requirements of the district, in order that Mr. Wills' gift shall remain available for the original purpose.

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THE Llandudno Nursing Association seems to be doing excellent work, and further, to be a success. It is noteworthy that Mr. W. Little, Sanitary Inspector, wrote to the Association, saying that it was one of the greatest factors in reducing the mortality of the district to its present low rate. This is valuable testimony to the result of good nursing. The report also states that there is a vast improvement in the homes of the artisans as regards cleanliness, and attributes this, largely, to the tact of Nurse Pugh, the district nurse.

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AN interesting letter from a correspondent to this month's *Trained Nurse* touches upon some points in connection with the demand of American nurses for a trained nurse, instead of a medical woman, as the head of the Army Nursing Department now being organized at Washington. As Congress will now soon re-assemble, it is important that these points should be brought forward.

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SURGEON-GENERAL STERNBERG, in support of the office of Superintendent of Army Nurses being given to a medical woman, calls attention to the fact that the Nurses' Serving Bill provided

a salary of \$3,000 per annum, while Dr. McGee receives but \$1,800. "Would General Sternberg," enquires this nurse, "relish it if his position in the army were open to a druggist or dentist (either one of whom would, doubtless, know as much of medicine and surgery as a physician does of nursing) simply because they were willing to work at reduced rates?"

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AGAIN, with regard to General Sternberg's desire to secure increased pay for the Army Corps men, we read: "On one hand we have men not very conscientious, not very unselfish, with often inferior education, and next to no training; and on the other, devoted women who have spent two or more years of hard work and study in the endeavour to master the art of caring for the sick in the best possible way." Each sex has its special value in the sick room, but, if the corps men's position is ever jeopardized, it will be because the "non-smoking, non-drinking, and generally more orderly employee, must survive as the fittest in the struggle for existence." Further, that "the amount paid as salary should be determined, not by sentiment, but by such rules as are recognized at the present time for determining the financial value of work received."

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THE *Nineteenth Century* for the present month contains a remarkable Indian Plague Story, by Cornelia Sorabji. It is interesting as demonstrating how easily the popular orator works upon the feelings of the inflammable and ignorant natives and makes them believe that the precautions taken for their good are intended for their destruction.

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To quote:—"Up rose a young fanatic—'We will not go, my brethren,' he said, 'to the hospital—to any hospital. *Our temples are our hospitals.* (Loud cheers from the panic-stricken crowd.) They will send carriages to take your sick away. Be not deceived. The carriage they send is—a *hearse*, (groans) only you are made, my friends, to ride in it while the blood still flows in your veins, that you might chant your own death-song, and see, as in a vision, that which is shortly to be.

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"'You mothers, how will you feel when your dying children are snatched from your arms? You husbands, where is your manhood that you can allow other men to hold the hands of your faithful wives? You wives, how will you abandon your husbands' corpses to contamination? And all ye fathers, mothers, husbands, wives, sisters, brothers, ye who guard the religion of the nation, what of the caste rules broken? Ye Mahommedans, what of the spirits they will

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